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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/472,988 12/28/99 OKUDA

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NEW YORK NY 10112

EXAMINER

SCHWARTZ, P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1774

DATE MAILED: 10/03/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/472,988

Applicant(s)

OKUDA, TERUAKI

Examiner

Pamela R. Schwartz

Art Unit

1774

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4 and 5 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-3, drawn to a recording medium, classified in class 428, subclass 195.
- II. Claims 4-5, drawn to a process of use, classified in class 347, subclass 105.

Inventions of Group I and of Group II are related as product and process of use.

The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be used in a materially different method such as a method of writing with an ink pen.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Ms. Dudek on June 4, 2001 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-3.

Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action.

Claims 4 and 5 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37

CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

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2. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 3, the use of "a" and "an" rather than "the" renders the claim indefinite and non-limiting. In order for the claim to be limiting it has to refer to the difference in the amounts of coating. Otherwise, the claim is comparing any amount of the coating on one side to any amount of the coating on the other. Clarification is required.

3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either one of Hirose et al. (6,203,899) and Otani et al. (6,214,449) taken alone or in view of either of Malhotra (6,180,238) or Cousin et al. (4,554,181). Hirose et al. disclose an printing medium having an ink-receiving layer and a surface layer (see the Abstract). The surface layer may contain a latex binder resin (see col. 4, lines 40-55). The ink-receiving layer contains inorganic pigment which may alumina hydrate (see col. 5, lines 50-60).

Otani et al. disclose an ink jet recording paper having multiple ink receiving layers. These layers contain pigment which may be pseudoboehmite (see col. 3, lines 44-56). They also include binder which may be a latex polymer binder (see col. 4, lines 14-26).

Neither of the primary references disclose coating both front and back surfaces of the support, however, it would have been obvious to do so in order to make both surfaces ink receptive so that both surfaces may be printed.

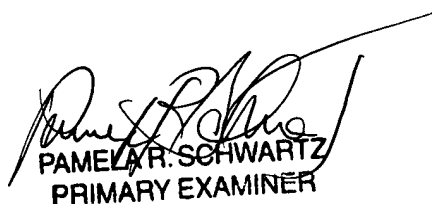
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Malhotra and Cousin et al. each disclose sheets for ink jet recording comprising supports with ink receptive coating layers thereon. Each reference discloses that both front and back surfaces of the supports may be coated (see Malhotra, col. 39, lines 32-44 and Cousin et al., the examples). In light of these teachings that it is known in the art to apply ink receptive coatings to both surfaces of a support, it would have been obvious to apply the coatings of the primary references on both surfaces in order to render both surfaces printable.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pamela R. Schwartz whose telephone number is 703-308-2424. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly, can be reached on (703) 308-0449. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

PRSchwartz
September 30, 2001



PAMELA R. SCHWARTZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER